



INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

2021 Grant Guidelines

Deadline: April 1, 2021

Updated 3/8/21

The mission of the California Arts Council, a state agency, is to strengthen arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all.

Learn more at www.arts.ca.gov

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Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

Purpose: The California Arts Council (CAC), a state agency, was established in January 1976 to encourage artistic awareness, participation, and expression; to help independent local groups develop their own arts programs; to promote employment of artists and those skilled in crafts in the public and private sector; and to enlist the aid of all state agencies in the task of ensuring the fullest expression of our artistic potential.

The Council: The appointed Council of the CAC consists of 11 members. The Governor appoints nine members, the assembly Speaker appoints one member, and the Senate President pro Tempore appoints one member. Council members serve without salary, elect their own officers, and meet throughout the state to encourage public attendance. This body sets policy and has final approval of CAC grants.

Native Land Acknowledgement: The California Arts Council stands in solidarity with all of California's Indigenous people. We acknowledge that our work takes place on the now occupied traditional lands of the Miwok, Maidu, and Nisenan people, who are the past, present, and future stewards of this place. We make this first step in our journey to develop relationships and cultural competencies to truly support native sovereignty.

Mission: Strengthening arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all.

Vision: A California where all people flourish with universal access to and participation in the arts.

Racial Equity Statement: As California's state arts agency, the California Arts Council is committed to racial equity both internally through our work environment, and externally through our programming.

- We are committed to ensuring that every policy enacted reflects democratic principles of equity and justice.
- We understand that enacting policy in a just and equitable manner considers critical issues of implicit bias and discrimination that requires concerted and purposeful action.
- We believe that bringing together Council, staff and other partners with differing backgrounds and life experiences will enhance our ability to increase opportunities for all arts service organizations to succeed.
- Policies, programs, and activities will be administered to identify and avoid discrimination and barriers to access, and to avoid disproportionately high and adverse effects on communities of color.

- Accountability to our grantees is of central importance to us. We understand the significance of evaluating the impact of our policymaking on grantees over time and utilizing this evaluation in the development of new policy initiatives.
- We are committed to the just and equitable disbursement of resources.
- We will obtain the following information when relevant and appropriate in order to utilize data to evaluate the impact of our equity goals: population served and/or affected by race, color, national origin, and income level, which will include diverse communities across the state such as: communities of color, racially and ethnically diverse individuals, tribal communities, immigrant and refugee communities, and communities that have principal languages other than English.

For the CAC, racial equity is a continual practice in listening, learning, and implementing. The CAC's Racial Equity Statement demonstrates a deeper commitment for us to do better for the field and our staff.

Funding: The CAC is a state agency, funded from the state's annual budget process and proceeds from the California Arts License Plate and the Keep Arts in Schools tax return voluntary contribution fund, supplemented by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. Its grants are often matched by foundations, individuals, earned income, government agencies, in-kind contributions, or other organizations.

Information Access: Due to the Public Records and Open Meeting Acts, applications and their attachments are not confidential and may be requested by the media and/or public. Meeting dates and locations are posted at www.arts.ca.gov. Observers may attend but may not participate in, or in any way interfere with, Council meetings. Each meeting provides a designated time for public comment, although comments may be time-limited.

Grant Process: Applications are evaluated by panels of recognized field representatives who rank applications according to program criteria. The CAC staff provides information but not recommendations to the panel. The Council reviews panel recommendations before making final funding decisions. CAC staff is responsible for grant contract administration after Council approval. In dire or unexpected circumstances, the CAC reserves the right to make exceptions to any policy or procedure on a case-by-case basis.

Requirements: The CAC provides grant funding to individual artists and is mandated both by federal and state regulations to fund arts organizations that have proof of nonprofit status under sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Fiscal Receivers are eligible in some programs), or under sec. 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxations Code, or entities that are a unit of government; and that comply with the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, as amended; sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988; California Government Code secs. 11135-11139.5 (barring discrimination); the Fair Labor Standards Act, as defined by the Secretary of Labor in part 505 of title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulation; the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”); the Fair Employment and Housing Act; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Ownership, Copyrights, Royalties, Credit: The CAC does not claim ownership, copyrights, royalties, or other claim to artwork produced as a result of a CAC grant. However, the CAC reserves the right to reproduce and use such material for official, noncommercial purposes, including but not limited to use on the CAC website, social media and print materials. In addition, the CAC requires documentation of grants activity and appropriate credit for CAC partial support.

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

2021 GRANT GUIDELINES

DEADLINE: April 1, 2021

Grant Awards: \$5,000 – \$50,000

Estimated Total Number of Grant Awards: 130
70 Emerging, 50 Established, 10 Legacy

Grant Activity Period:

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022



Apply at calartscouncil.smartsimple.com

Background: Why is this program being offered?

The California Arts Council's policies and practices prioritize racial equity and have a broad geographic reach into communities of all sizes and needs, and this includes providing critical services to artists and to the community at large. The CAC is committed to funding opportunities that support all of California's creative ecosystem. These fellowships respond to the CAC's [Strategic Framework](#) by directly supporting individuals and in recognizing that all artistic traditions and practices enable full and meaningful creative expression.

Artist fellowships support the arts and creativity more broadly by:

- Encouraging artists' contributions to the state's economy, communities, cultural vitality and/or quality of life
- Highlighting artists' accomplishments and creative excellence
- Affirming artists and the arts as priorities worthy of financial support
- Stimulating greater public awareness of and engagement with various artistic traditions and practices
- Raising artists' public profiles within the state and beyond

Purpose: What is the intended impact of this program?

The **Individual Artist Fellowships** program intends to recognize, uplift, and celebrate California artists. Fellowships will support artists from a broad spectrum of artistic practices, backgrounds, geographies and communities, whose work addresses themes including but not limited to race, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. In doing so, the CAC will showcase the centrality of artists' leadership in generating social impact and the evolution of our traditional and contemporary cultures.

This program will support artists, 18 years of age and older, at key moments in their careers, elevating their capacity for continued contribution to the field and our state. The grant program identifies three career tiers at which artists may benefit from this support:

- **CAC Emerging Artist Fellows - \$5,000** (approximately 70 artists to be supported) Artists with between two and four years of artistic practice.
- **CAC Established Artist Fellows - \$10,000** (approximately 50 artists to be supported) Artists with between four and 10 years of artistic practice.
- **CAC Legacy Artist Fellows - \$50,000** (approximately 10 artists to be supported) Well-established artists with 10 or more years of artistic practice.

Individuals may submit an application in one career tier only.

Fellowship grants support individual artistic practice through unrestricted funding. Awards will be funded at the full dollar amount for each tier; partial awards will not be made. This grant is not intended to support artist groups or collectives. Fiscal sponsorships are not allowed.

As additional elevation and recognition of Artist Fellows, the CAC will convene fellows (in-person or virtually) to offer a platform on which to engage with one another as a cohort and to be celebrated publicly for their distinction as CAC Artist Fellows. Legacy Fellows will be further recognized through the curation of CAC-sponsored digital timelines highlighting the artists' work and careers.

Community

Representation of, by, and for community is a core value of the CAC, including authentic intergenerational and intersectional connections.

Although not factors in grant decisions, we strongly encourage applications from individuals representing systemically marginalized communities, including but not limited to: Arab, MENASA (Middle Eastern, North African, South Asian); Asian; Black, African American; California Native American, Indigenous, Tribal; Currently Experiencing Incarceration; Disabled; Elders, Seniors; Latinx, Chicanx; LGBTQIA+; Low Income; Neuro-Divergent; Pacific Islander; People of Color; Rural; Returned Residents, Formerly Incarcerated; Students of Color; Trans and/or Non-

Binary People; Immigrants (Documented and/or Undocumented), Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants; Unhoused, Transient; Veterans; or Youth 18 years of age or older.

Eligibility Requirements

California-based artists, 18 years of age and older, working in any artistic discipline, who reside primarily in California and have a history of artistic practice in California, are eligible to apply. Applicants must comply with the requirements below. All applications must include the listed items at the time of submission in order to be reviewed, ranked, and considered for funding.

- **Artist's narrative** - Applicants must provide a brief description of their background and focus, and a description of how the funds will support the artist's professional practice.
- **Artist work samples** - Applicants must include examples of their work over the time period relative to the funding tier (three pieces for Emerging, six for Established, and 10 for Legacy artists).
- **Letter of support or testimonial** - Applicants must provide a written signed statement from an individual or organization familiar with their body of work that can substantiate the artist's practice, relevance, and impact in their community.
- **Support materials** - Applicants must supply a resume or curriculum vitae (CV). Applicants may also submit up to two additional supporting documents such as press materials, flyers, brochures, programs, newsletters, and other marketing pieces. More recent materials are preferred; however, we recognize that COVID-19 has impacted the amount of work created in the past year.
- **Signatures on required attachments** - Letters and other attachments requiring signatures must include completed digital or scanned signatures in order to be considered for funding.

Matching Funds

This program does not require matching funds.

Online Application Portal

Applications will be available online through the CAC's online grants management system at calartscouncil.smartsimple.com. Only applications submitted through the system by the deadline will be accepted. **It is recommended that new applicants create an online profile well in advance of the application deadline.** More information can be found on the [Grant Resources page](#) of the CAC website.

Application Review Criteria

A review panel will adjudicate complete and eligible applications based on the following criteria. Application questions will address these same criteria.

- **Artist's Narrative:** Describes the artist's personal story, artistic medium or practice, challenges and accomplishments, and long-term aspirations for their work.
- **Personal Impact:** Demonstrates the artist's clear and strong personal, artistic, and professional impact that would be achieved with CAC support.
- **Community Engagement:** Demonstrates the artist's strong relationships with local and/or regional organizations and initiatives.
- **Social Impact:** Demonstrates that the artist's processes and activities generate positive social impact locally, regionally, and/or statewide, addressing themes including but not limited to race, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Panel Adjudication and Ranking Scale

Panelists will review and rank applications and uploaded materials using a 6-point ranking scale that can be [viewed at this link](#). Finalists for the **Legacy Fellowships** will be invited to participate in a second-round online interview with the panel before final

ranks are determined. The panel will identify final cohorts at each tier that represent the diversity of California's arts landscape and geography.

California Arts Council Decision-making

The final authority for grant awards is the appointed Council. After receiving and reviewing recommendations from Council committees, the Council will vote on final funding awards at a public meeting. Awards may

differ from requested amounts based on panel rank and the CAC funding formula.

Program Timeline

Application Opens	December 18, 2020
Application Deadline	April 1, 2021
Panel Review	Approx. May – June 2021
Funding Decision	Approx. June – July 2021
Funding Notification	Approx. June – July 2021
Grant Activity Period	October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

Grantee Requirements

Awarded grantees must comply with all requirements as stipulated in the grant agreement, including but not limited to the following:

- **Complete contract documents** - Upon notification of grant award, complete all required contract documents in order to receive 100% grant payment.
- **Payee Data Record** - Each awardee must complete, sign, and submit an STD 204 Payee Data Record as a required contract document before grant funds can be released. Please note: the awardee's Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) is required for payment processing.
- **Consistent activities** - Maintain communication with the CAC throughout the duration of the fellowship and participate in program activities as scheduled by CAC.
- **Thank you letters** - To better inform our elected representatives as to the value of the arts and the use of state funds, grantees are required to include—with the approved grant agreement—copies of signed letters sent to the Governor and state Senate and Assembly representatives thanking them for the grant. Local representatives may be found at this link: <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>.
- **Final work submissions** - Emerging and Established Artist Fellows will be required to submit a piece of work for inclusion in a virtual gallery, and Legacy Fellows will be required to submit works to be included in a digital timeline. This may include any work submitted with the application or produced during the fellowship year.
- **Participation in convening** - All Fellows will be required to participate in a virtual or in-person convening during the Grant Activity Period.

Appeal Process

Appeals to CAC funding decisions must be submitted on an official Appeal Form, available from the CAC, and postmarked within 45 days of the decision. Appeals are granted only on the following grounds:

1. Panel's assessment was based on a misstatement of factual information as contained in the application such that it negatively influenced the panel's recommendation; and/or
2. Incorrect processing of the required application material such that it negatively influenced the panel's assessment of the applicant's request for funding.

Note: Dissatisfaction with award denial or with award amount is not grounds for appeal.

Staff Assistance

CAC staff is available to offer guidance and clarification in preparing your proposal. We recommend that you contact staff well in advance of the deadline to ensure you can be accommodated. People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, or have difficulty speaking may dial 711 to reach the California Relay Service (CRS). Large print is available upon request.

Staff Contact(s)

Emerging Artist Fellows

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Established Artist Fellows

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Legacy Artist Fellows

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